REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 20-27 are pending in this application. Claims 18 and 19 are canceled. Claims 22-27 are new. No new matter had been added. A Request for Continued Examination is being filed concurrently herewith. Applicant also asks the Examiner to note the Revocation of Power of Attorney with New Power of Attorney and Change of Correspondence Address that is also being submitted herewith.

The Examiner rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. Section 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter and under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner noted that claim 19, if directed to a method of generating a look-up table, may be subject to a restriction requirement. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections. Nevertheless, to expedite prosecution claim 19 has been canceled without prejudice to the filing of a continuation application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 10-13, 15, 16, and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,529,559 issued to Reshef. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections.

Independent claims 1 and 9, as amended, recite, "mapping each of the symbols to a plurality of data bits; assigning a confidence value to each bit in a symbol; and effecting convolutional decoding of a bit stream associated with the assigned confidence values, wherein the confidence values comprise constant values based on the mapping." The Examiner contends that Reshef discloses assigning soft confidence values to bits because Reshef discloses assigning confidence values to symbols and a soft symbol to soft bit converter. (See Office Action at 2). Assuming the Examiner's characterization of Reshef is correct, Reshef does not disclose "confidence values comprising constant values based on the mapping," as recited. Claims 2-8, 20 and 24 depend from claim 1 and claims 22 and 23 depend from claim 9, and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies. Accordingly, claims 1-9, 20 and 22-24 are not anticipated by Reshef because Reshef does not disclose confidence values comprising constant values based on the mapping.

Independent claim 10, as amended, recites, "mapping means for mapping each symbol to a plurality of bits and for assigning to each bit a confidence value; and means for

7

effecting convolutional decoding of a bit stream associated with the assigned confidence values, wherein the confidence values comprise constant values based on the mapping." Reshef does not disclose confidence values comprising constant values based on the mapping. Claims 11-17, 21 and 25 depend from claim 10 and are allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies. Accordingly, claims 10-17, 21 and 25 are not anticipated by Reshef.

The Examiner rejected claims 5 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as rendered obvious over Reshef in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,826,242 issued to Ojard; and claims 8 and 17 as obvious over Reshef without citing a secondary reference. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections. The Examiner does not contend that Ojard discloses confidence values comprising constant values based on the mapping, as recited in claims 1 and 10. Accordingly, claims 5 and 8 (which depend from claim 1) and claims 14 and 17 (which depend from claim 10) are not rendered obvious by Reshef, alone or in combination with Ojard.

New independent claim 26 recites, "a symbol mapper configured to map each symbol to a respective plurality of bits and to assign a confidence value to each bit, the confidence values comprising constant values based on the mapping." Reshef, alone or in combination with Ojard, does not disclose confidence values comprising constant values based on the mapping. New claim 27 depends from claim 26. Accordingly, claims 26 and 27 are not anticipated or rendered obvious by Reshef, alone or in combination with Ojard.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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